

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A dirt receptacle for a vacuum cleaner, the receptacle comprising:
 - a rigid container having an outlet for the emptying of collected dirt,
 - a closure for closing the outlet, and
 - actuator means for moving the closure between a closed position and an open position, said actuator means being operable to control the position of the closure between said open and closed positions.
2. (Previously presented) A dirt receptacle as claimed in claim 1, in which the outlet is provided at a position on the container which is located at the bottom thereof when the container is in use.
3. (Previously presented) A dirt receptacle as claimed in claim 1, in which means are provided for retaining the closure in said open and/or closed positions.
4. (Currently amended) A dirt receptacle as claimed in claim 1, in which the closure is biased into said open and/or closed positions.
5. (Previously presented) A dirt receptacle as claimed in claim 1, in which the container comprises an open bottom forming the outlet.

6. (Previously presented) A dirt receptacle as claimed in claim 1, in which the closure comprises a flap pivoted to the container.
7. (Previously presented) A dirt receptacle as claimed in claim 6, in which the actuator comprises a handle mounted directly to said flap.
8. (Previously presented) A dirt receptacle as claimed in claim 7, in which the actuator comprises a handle mounted directly to said flap adjacent the point where the flap is pivoted to the container.
9. (Previously presented) A dirt receptacle as claimed in claim 6, in which the flap is also mounted to the container for translatory movement towards and away from said outlet thereof.
10. (Previously presented) A dirt receptacle as claimed in claim 9, in which means are provided to guide the translatory movement of said flap towards and away from said outlet.
11. (Previously presented) A dirt receptacle as claimed in claim 10, in which said guide means is arranged to only permit pivotal movement of the flap, when the latter is in a partially opened position between said open and closed positions.
12. (Previously presented) A dirt receptacle as claimed in claim 11, in which the guide means is further arranged to retain said flap in a fully opened position.

13. (Currently amended) A dirt receptacle as claimed in claim 1, in which the closure is arranged to locate at a partially opened position.

14. (Previously presented) A vacuum cleaner comprising a dirt receptacle, the dirt receptacle comprising:

a rigid container having an outlet for the emptying of collected dirt,

a closure for closing the outlet, and

actuator means for moving the closure between a closed position and an open position, said actuator means being operable to control the position of the closure between said open and closed positions.

15. (Previously presented) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 14, in which the vacuum cleaner comprises a cyclonic separator having a cylindrical-walled separation chamber.

16. (Cancelled)